

Adolescents' Willingness for Intergenerational Support: Relations to Maternal Parenting and Life Satisfaction in 14 Cultures

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Adolescents' Willingness for Support - Bidirectional Influences within the Family

- > Adolescents gain autonomy and accept responsibilities such as household chores and support for the family (Ferrar, Olds, & Waters, 2012)
- > Relationship with parents, parenting behavior and expectations still important for adolescents (Collins & Steinberg, 2006)
- > For girls, parenting style associated with amount of housework (Russell, Brewer, & Hogben, 1997)
- > Hardly any research with regard to parental influences on other kinds of intergenerational support
- > Bi-directional influences within family interactions rarely investigated (Steinberg, 2001)
- > Existing research on negative effects of adolescent autonomy on maternal well-being (Silverberg & Steinberg, 1990)

➔ Positive impact of adolescent support on maternal well-being?

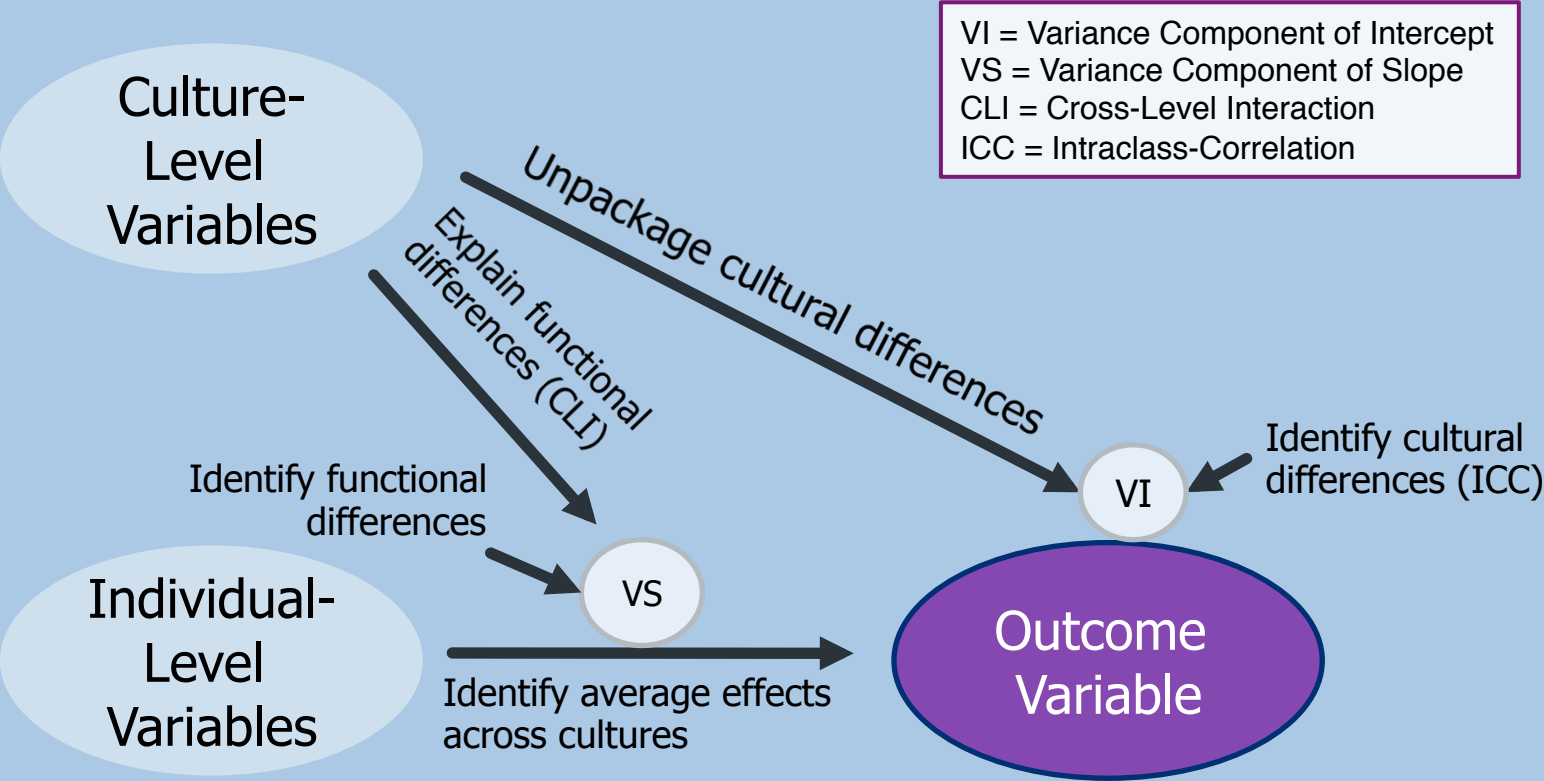
The Role of Culture

- > Meaning of parental behaviours embedded in cultural context (values) (Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Trommsdorff & Kornadt, 2003)
- > Warmth and responsiveness universally related to positive outcomes in adolescents (Khaleqe & Rohner, 2002; Schwarz et al., 2012)
- > Role of parental control less clear (different facets of control) (Chao, 1994)
Korea: parental strictness substantially correlated with parental warmth (Kim & Choi, 1994)
Latino and Asian American adolescents show respect for parental authority and feel obligated to respect family elders (Fuligni, Tseng & Lam, 1999)
- > Attitudes toward house work of children differs depending on cultural orientations (Bowes, Flanagan, & Taylor, 2001)

Cross-cultural and multilevel associations between:

- 1) Parenting, Parenting Goals and Adolescents' Willingness to Support
- 2) Adolescents' Willingness to Support and Maternal Well-being

Potential of Multilevel-Models in Cross-Cultural Research



Sample: Mothers and their Adolescent Children from 14 Cultural Groups

Culture	N (Mother – Adolescent Dyads)				Age Mothers		Age Adolescents	
	Males	Females	Missing	Total	M	(SD)	M	(SD)
China	129	177	3	309	39.62	(4.02)	13.82	(1.14)
Estonia	147	151	2	300	41.35	(6.04)	15.53	(1.12)
France	89	110	1	200	43.65	(4.39)	15.01	(1.27)
Germany	137	174		311	43.50	(4.89)	15.67	(1.07)
India (Varanasi)	148	152		300	40.83	(5.82)	16.05	(1.61)
India (Pondicherry)	150	150		300	38.09	(4.34)	14.86	(0.99)
Indonesia	135	165		300	39.79	(5.34)	15.25	(1.00)
Israel	69	119	6	194	44.01	(5.11)	15.77	(1.38)
Palestinian Authority	78	98	5	181	41.60	(5.25)	15.97	(0.90)
Poland	229	345	1	575	42.97	(5.34)	15.15	(1.34)
Russia	91	134	5	230	41.05	(5.68)	15.35	(1.23)
South Africa	122	195		317	40.70	(6.81)	14.96	(1.21)
Turkey	144	162	2	308	39.80	(5.59)	14.73	(1.11)
USA	121	216		337	44.66	(5.61)	15.87	(1.43)
Total	1789	2348	25	4162	$F = 38.4^{***}, \eta^2 = .11$		$F = 66.6^{***}, \eta^2 = .18$	

Measures: Adolescents

- > Adolescent's Willingness for and Actual Support Given to Parents
 - “Readiness to Help Parents (vs. Meet Friends)”-Scenario:

Imagine the following situation: You and your friends have been planning to spend the day together, but now your parents want you to help them with household chores. What would you decide to do?

 - () Spend the day with my friends
 - () Spend the day helping my parents

(Trommsdorff et al., 2002)
 - Willingness to Support Injured Parent: 5 items from 1 (not at all) to 5 (quite a lot)

Please indicate the extent to which you would tolerate the following things in order to help your injured parent (e.g., do more work around the house, care for your injured parent, spend more time at home): e.g., “...a reduction in your free time” or “...emotional stress”
(Trommsdorff et al., 2002)
 - Help in Household: 8 items from 1 (hardly ever) to 5 (nearly always)

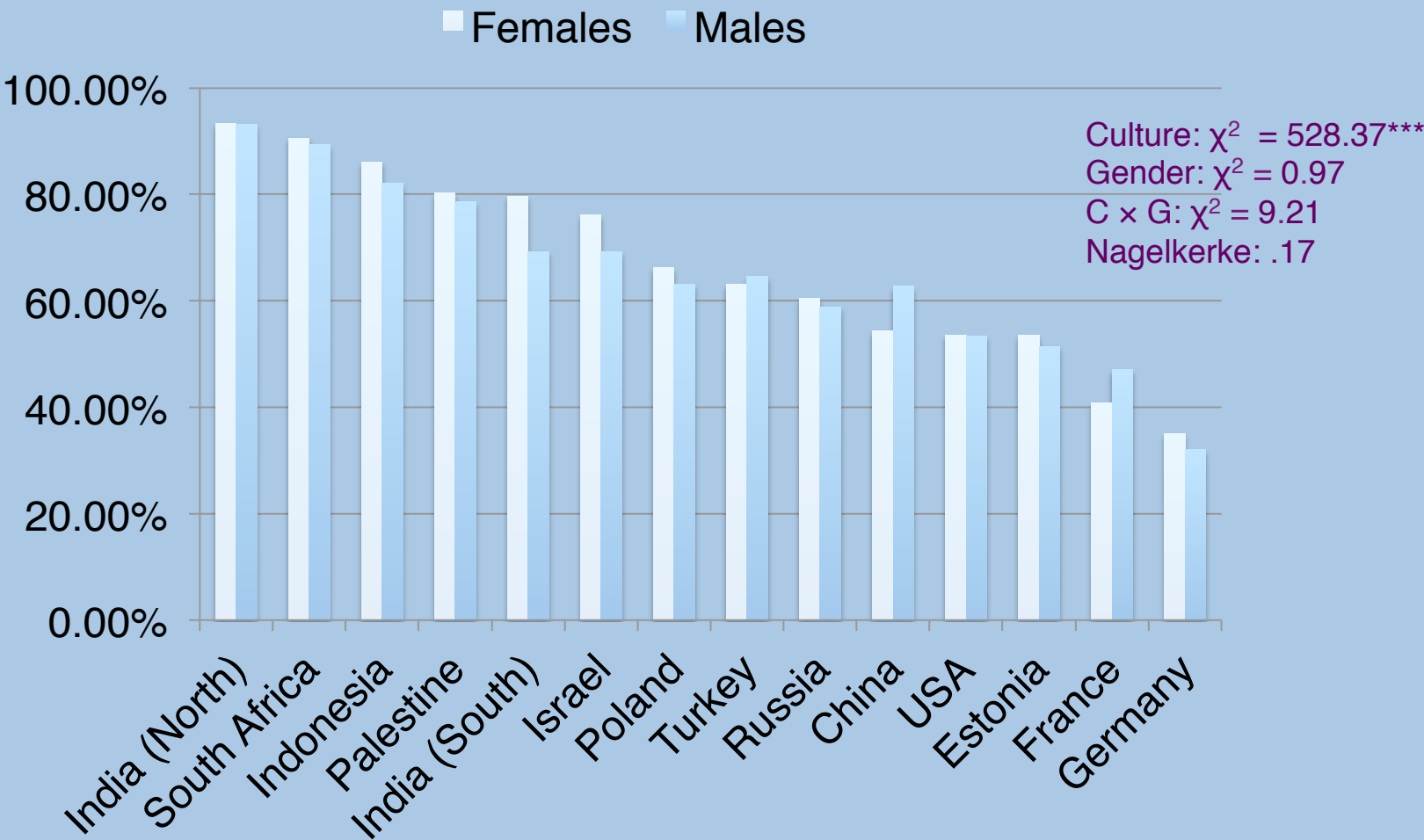
Please indicate how often you do the following tasks for your family: e.g., “Set/clear the table” or “Help prepare meals for others” (Brannen, 1995)

Measures: Mothers

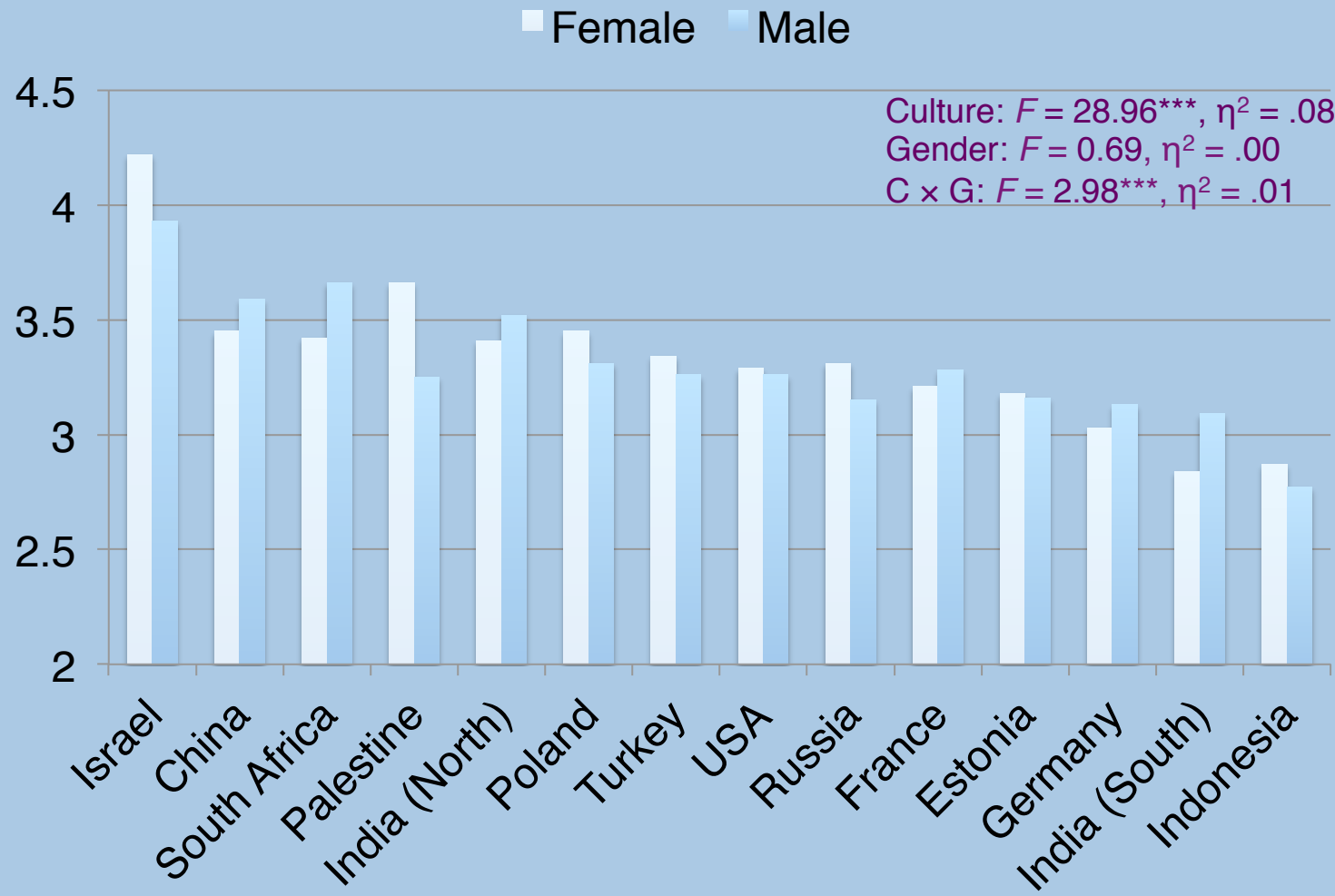
> Mother's Parenting Goals, Parenting Behavior, and Life Satisfaction

- Parenting Goals: 2 (single) items from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (very important)
Concerning your relationship with (*name of the target child*), please tell me how important it is to you that (*name of the target child*) ...
 - “...minds (his/her) parents (is obedient)” → **Obedience**
 - “...is independent and self-reliant.” → **Independence**(Hoffman, 1988)
- Parenting Behavior: Items from 1 (almost never true) to 4 (almost always true)
While thinking about (*name of target child*) and yourself, please tell me the degree to which each statement is true or not true for your style of parenting.
Acceptance: 10 item, e.g., “I let know that I love (him/her)”
Control: 4 items, e.g., “I am telling my child how to behave” (Rohner & Cournoyer, 1994)
- Life Satisfaction: 6 items from from 1 (not satisfied at all) to 5 (very satisfied)
Life Domains, e.g., “... with your work.”
+ Overall Life Satisfaction (Henrich & Herschbach, 1995)

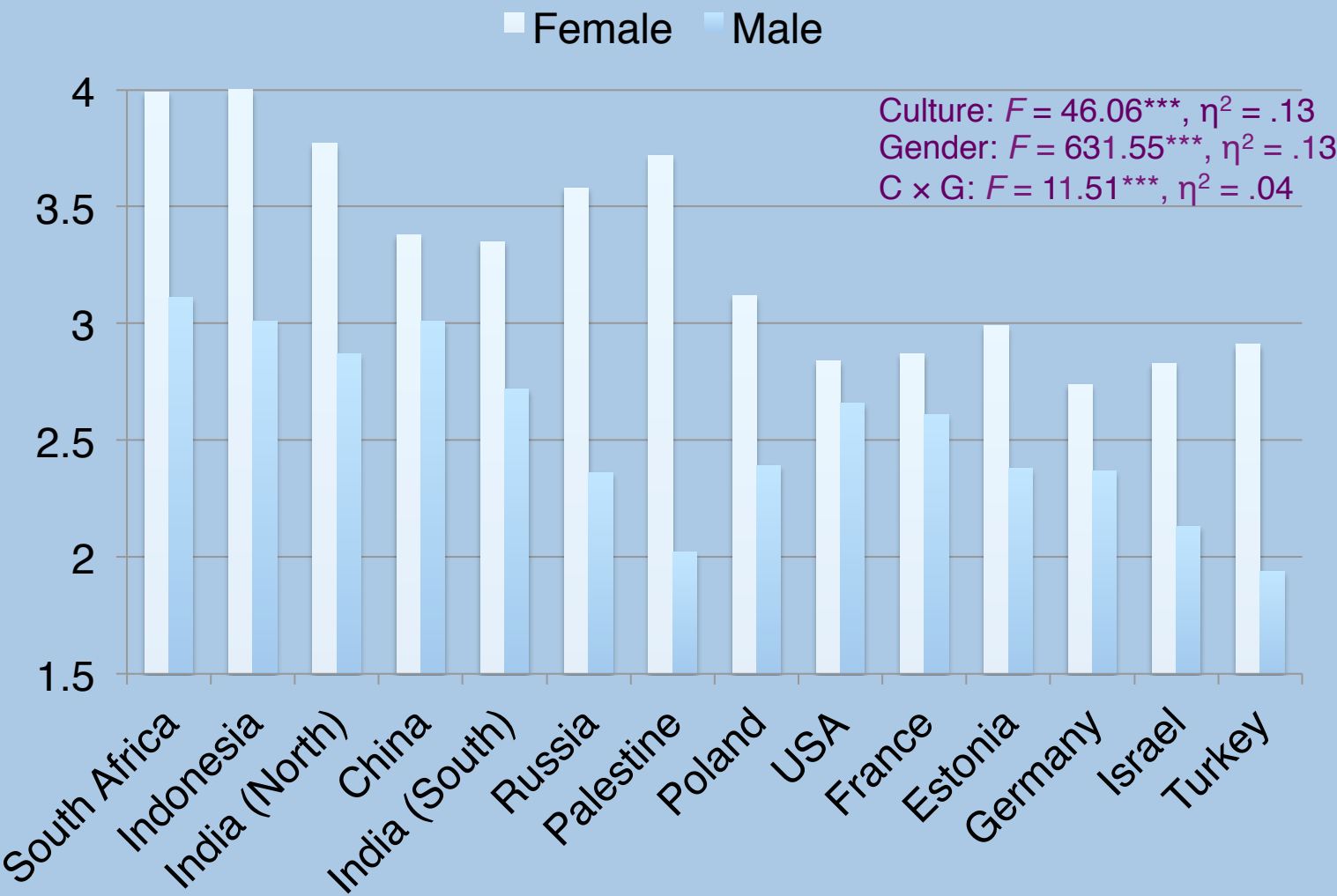
Adolescent's Readiness to Help Parents (versus Meet Friends)



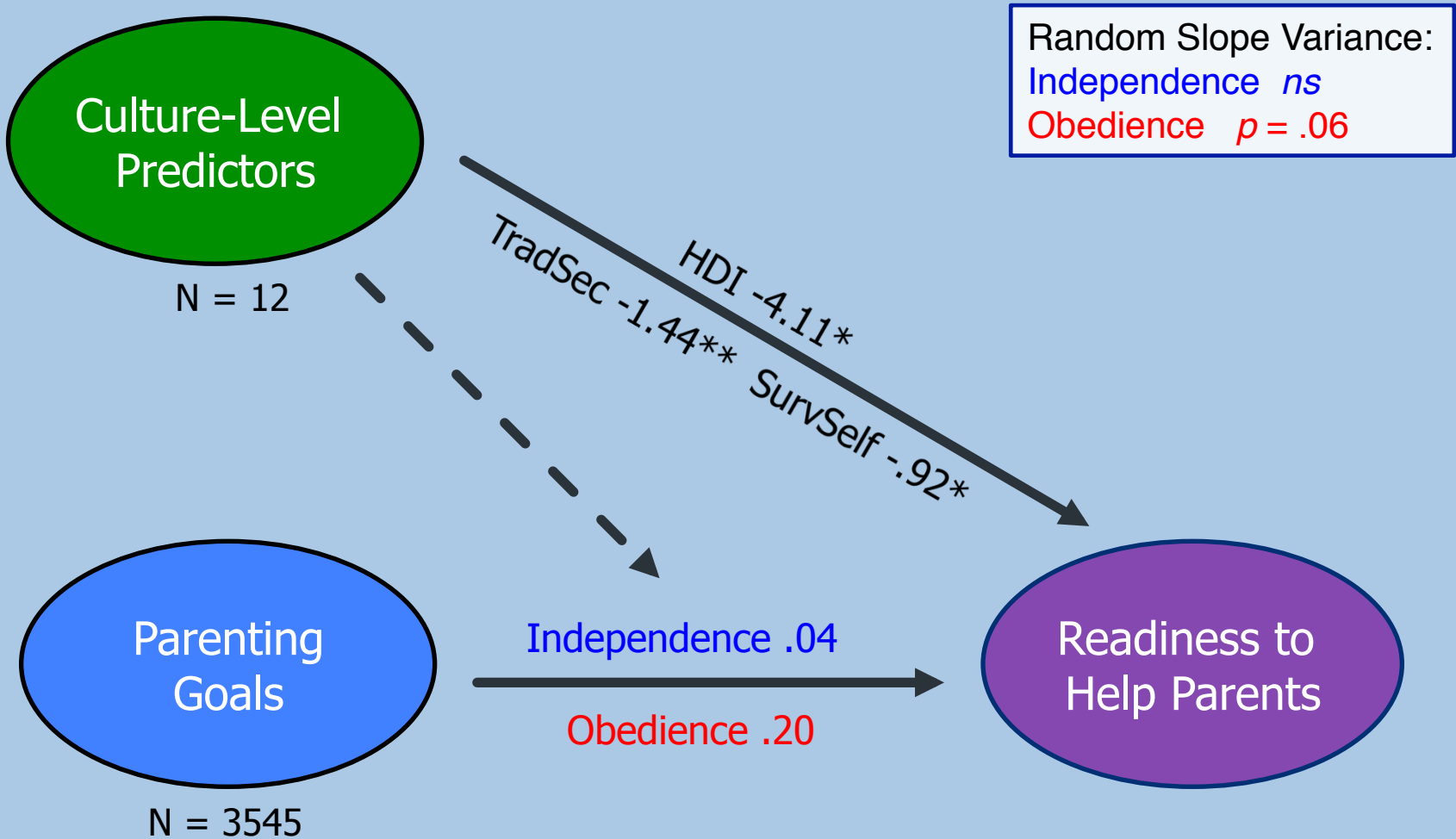
Adolescents' Willingness to Support Injured Parents in Case of an Accident



Adolescent's Household Tasks

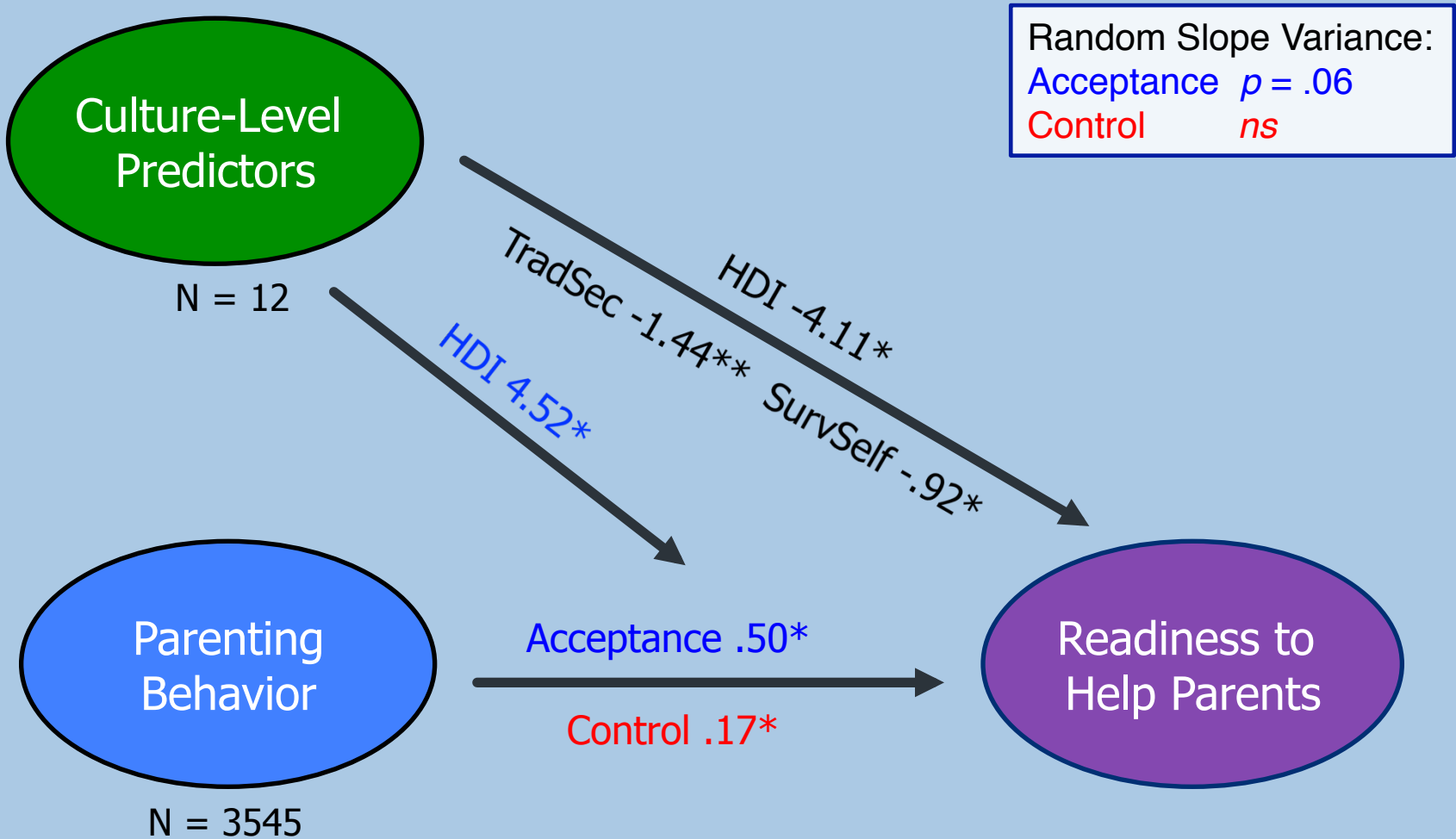


Mother's Parenting Goals → Readiness to Help Parents (vs. Meet Friends)



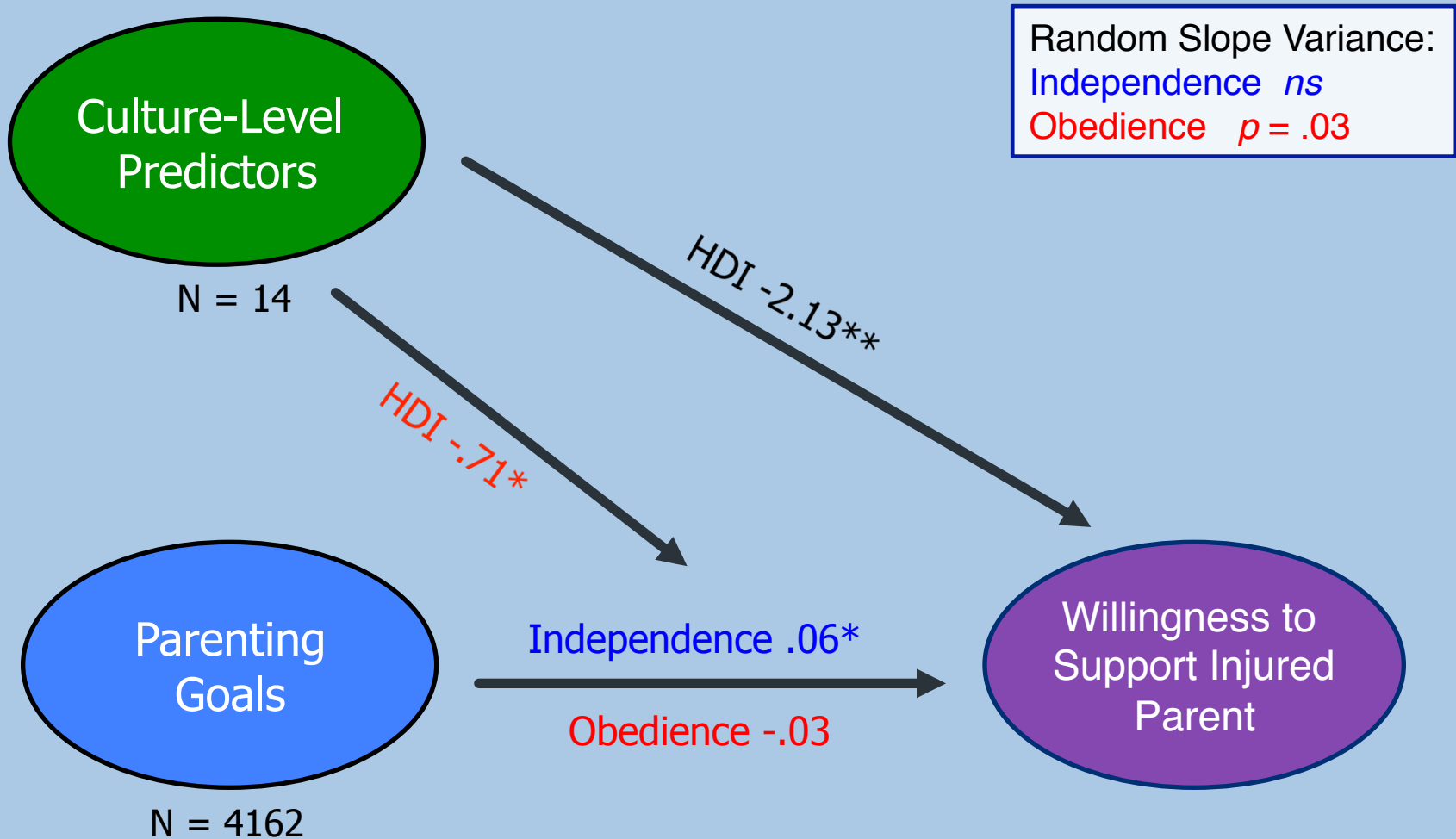
+ *p* < .1 * *p* < .05 ** *p* < .01 *** *p* < .001. Unstandardized estimates.

Mother's Parenting Behavior → Readiness to Help Parents (vs. Meet Friends)



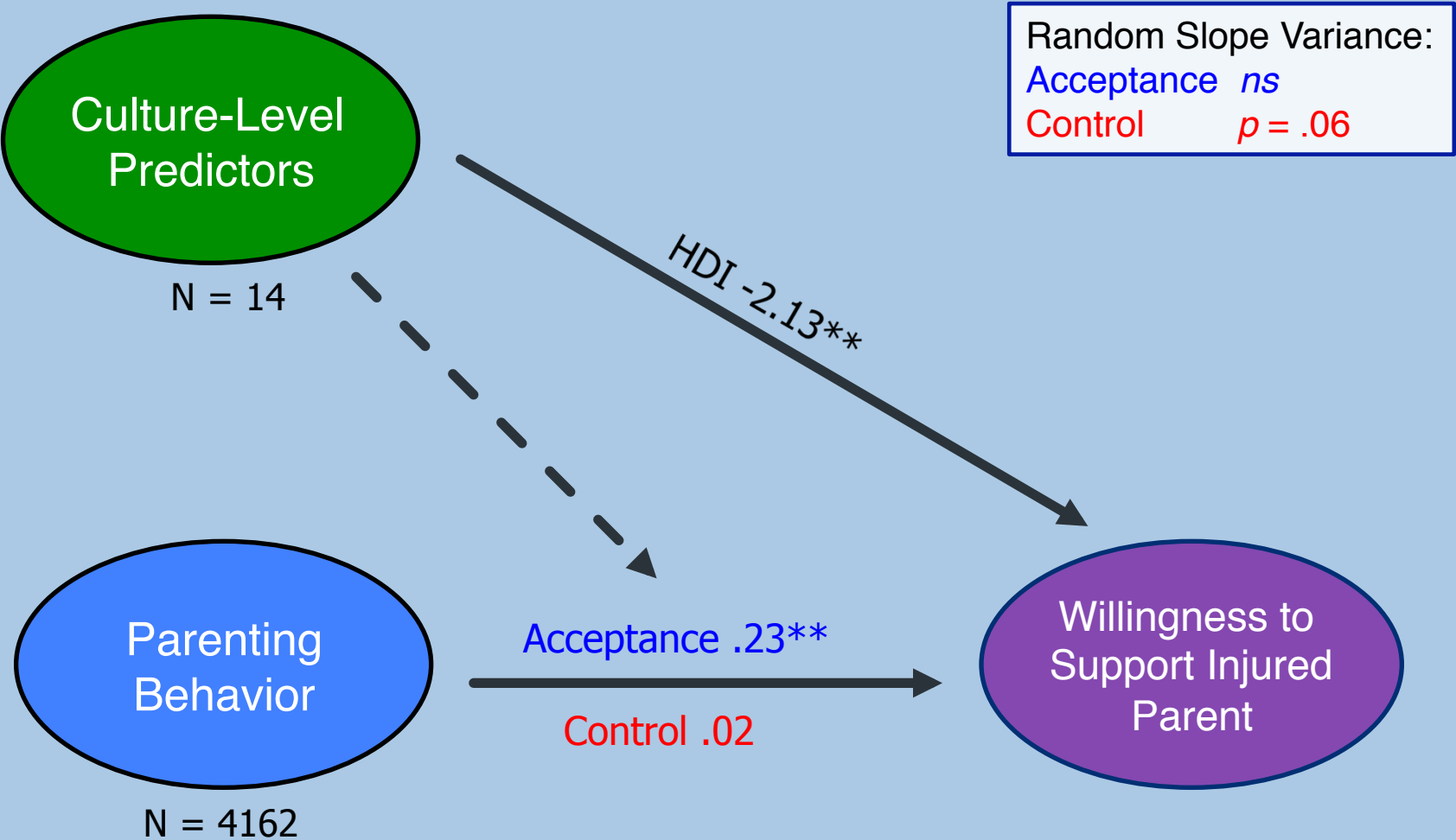
+ $p < .1$ * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$. Unstandardized estimates.

Mother's Parenting Goals → Willingness to Support Injured Parent



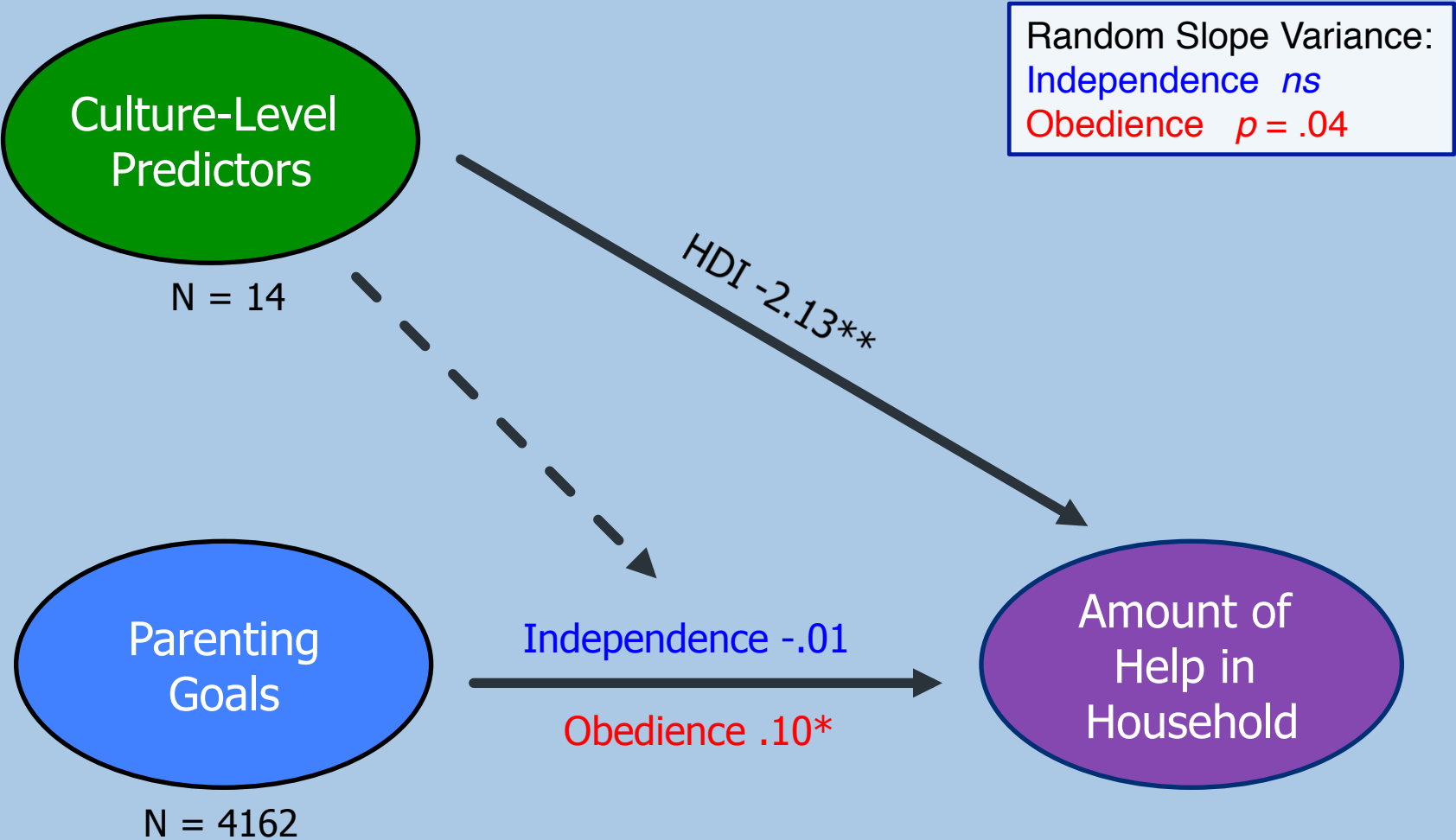
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Mother's Parenting Behavior → Willingness to Support Injured Parent



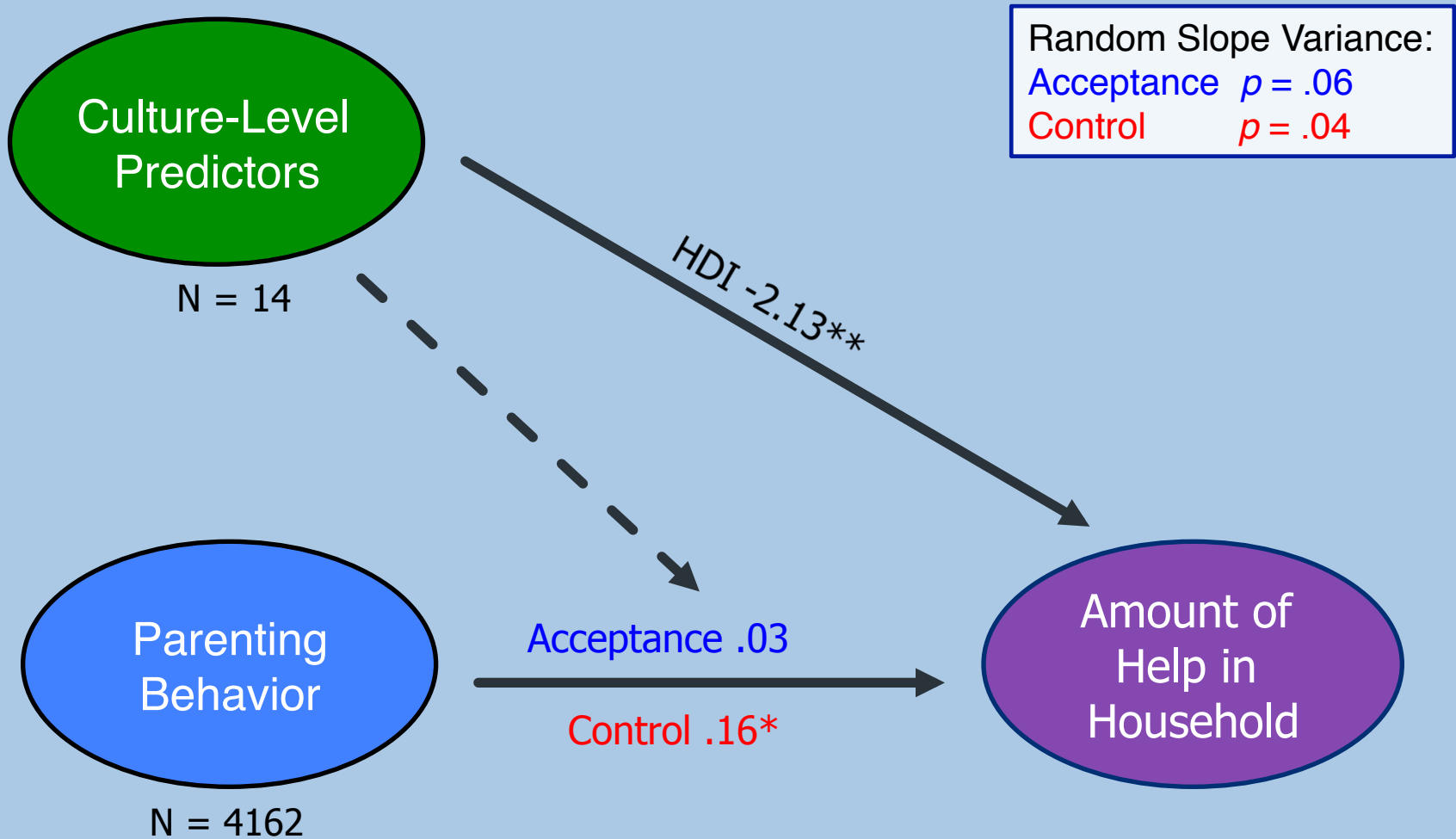
+ $p < .1$ * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$. Unstandardized estimates.

Mother's Parenting Goals → Adolescent's Amount of Help in Household



+ *p* < .1 * *p* < .05 ** *p* < .01 *** *p* < .001. Unstandardized estimates.

Mother's Parenting Behavior → Adolescent's Amount of Help in Household



+ $p < .1$ * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$. Unstandardized estimates.

Summary and Discussion

- > Readiness to help parents (vs. meet friends)
 - Affluence-secular-postmodernist indicators explain most cultural variation
 - **Positive** effect of maternal acceptance (behavior), stronger in affluent cultures
- > Willingness to support injured parent
 - **Positive** effects of independence (goal) and acceptance (behavior)
 - **Negative** effect of obedience (goal) only in affluent cultures
- > Help in Household
 - **Positive** effects of obedience (goal) and control (behavior)

- ➔ Maternal parenting related to adolescents' (willingness for) support across cultures
- ➔ Acceptance more important in affluent Western cultures
- ➔ Obedience negatively related to willingness to help injured parents, but positively to actual help in household
Different kinds of help or difference between actual behavior versus intention?
- ➔ No effects of adolescents' willingness to help on mothers' life satisfaction

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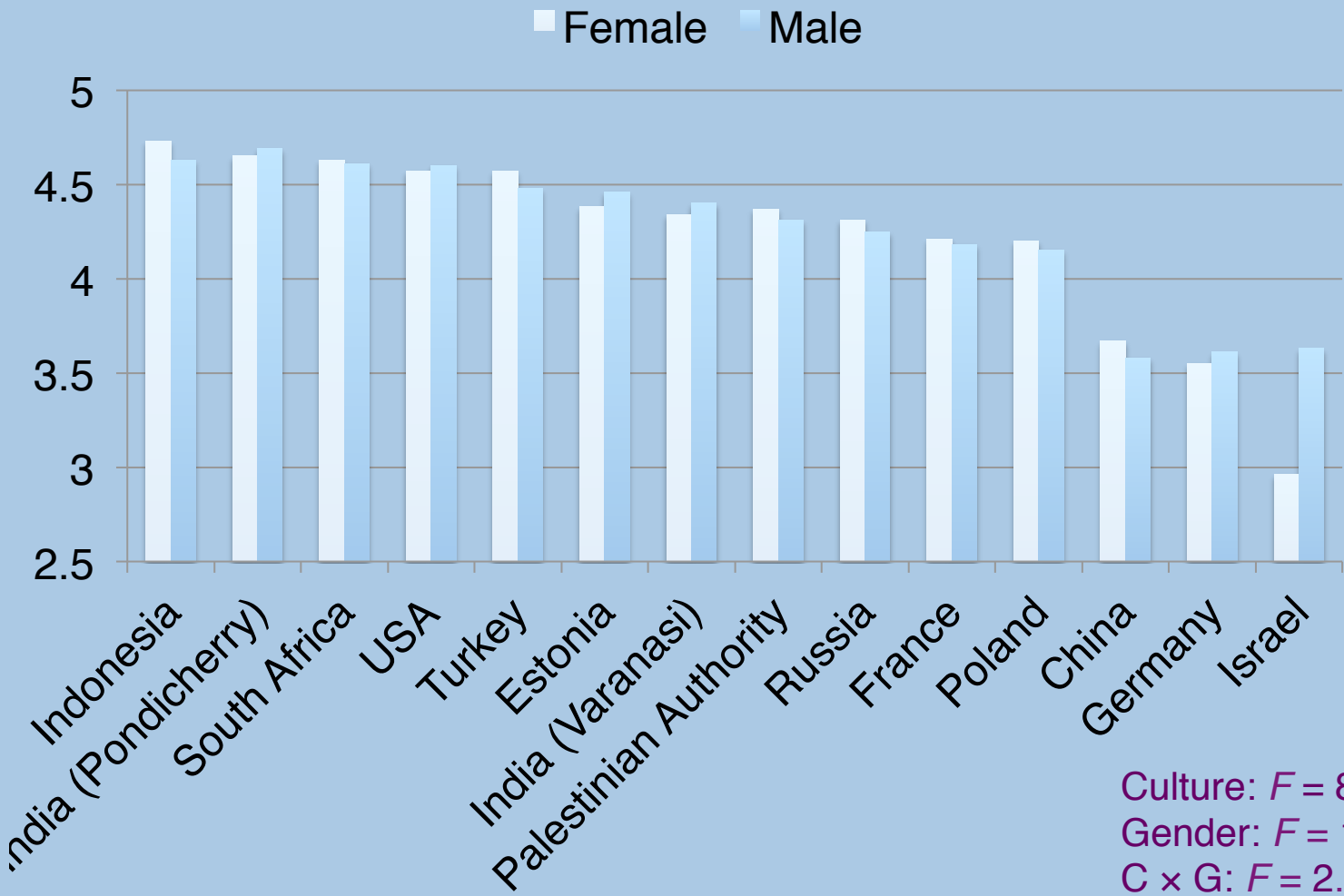
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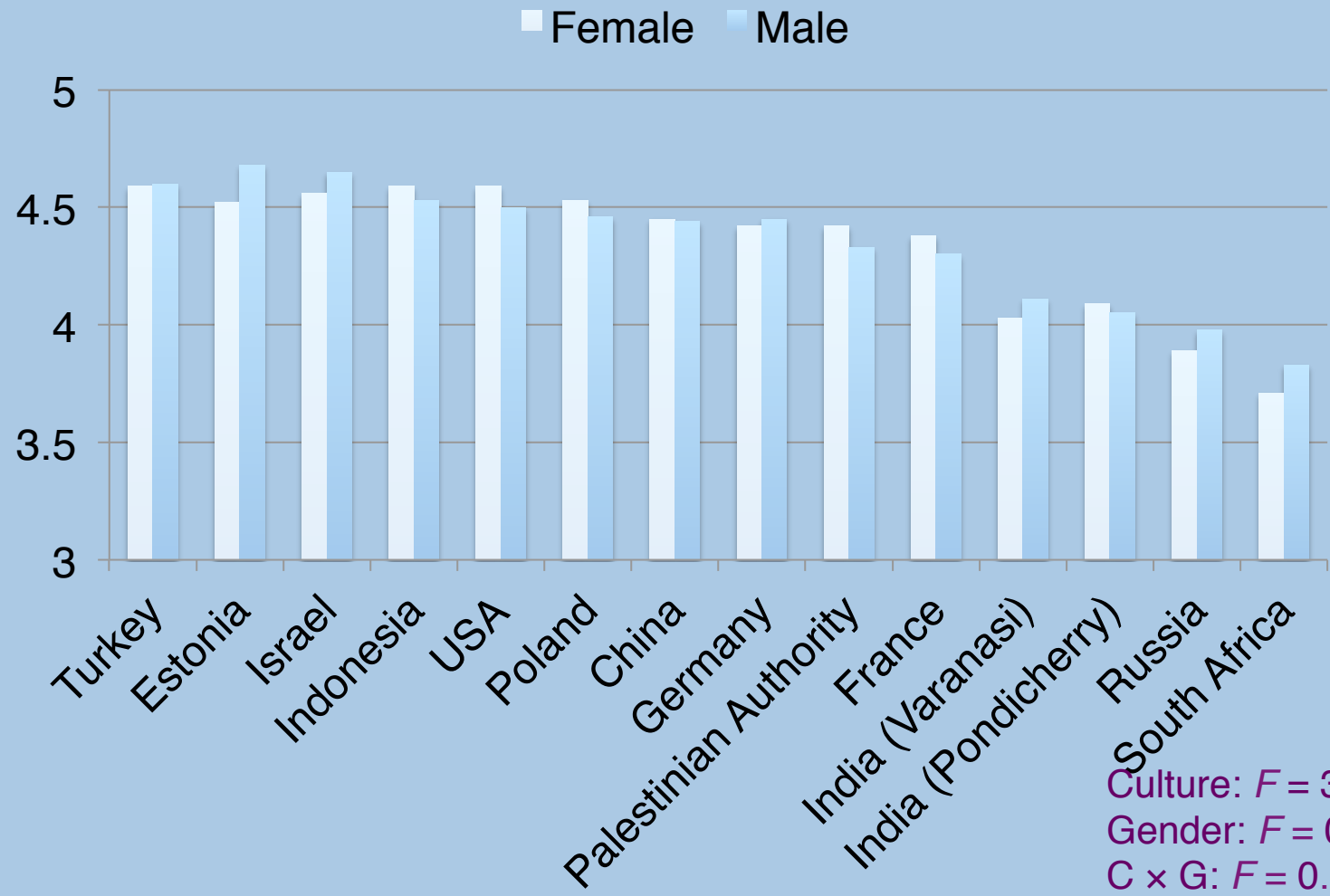
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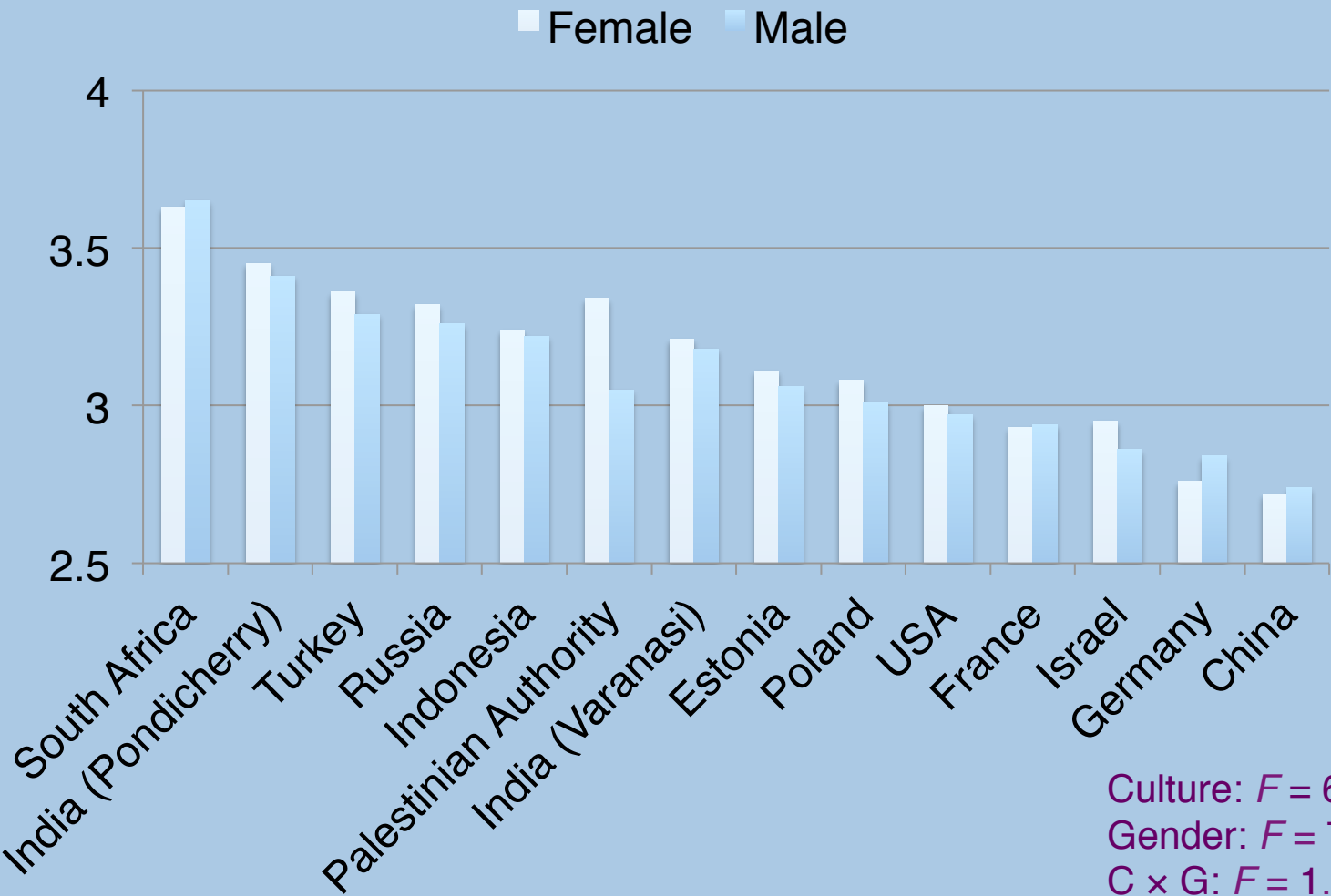
Mother's Child Rearing Goals: Obedience



Mother's Child Rearing Goals: Independence

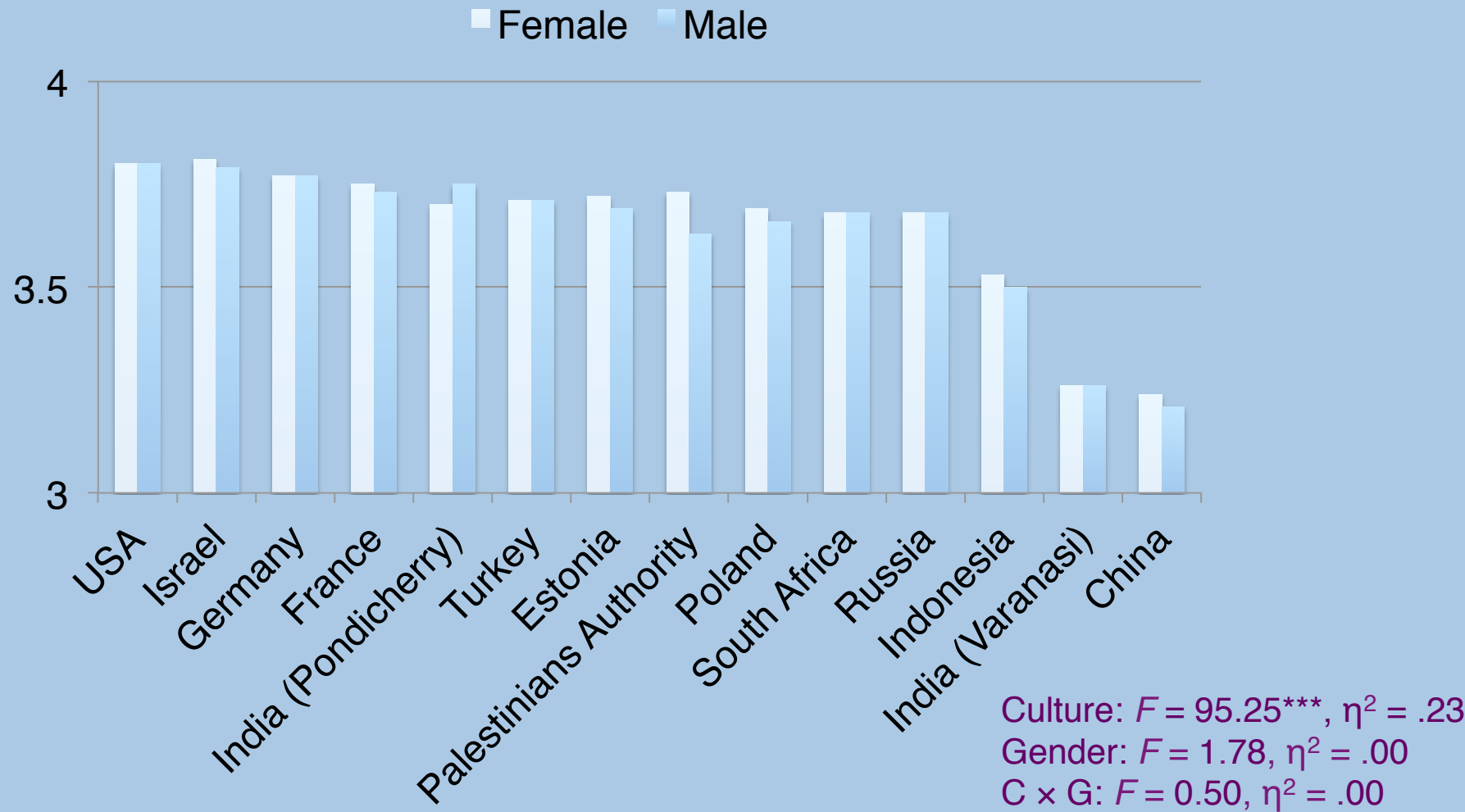


Mother's Parenting Behavior: Control

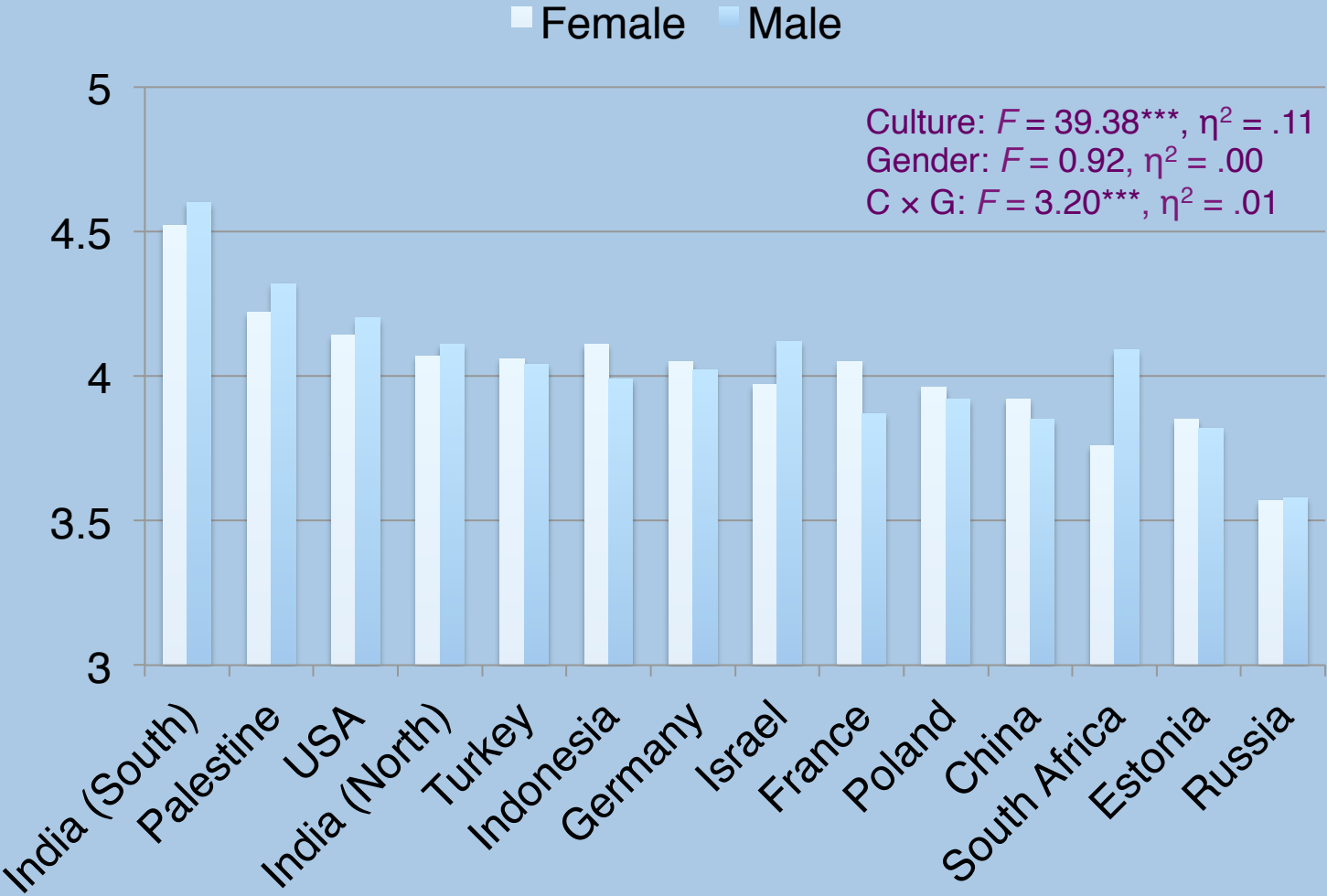


Culture: $F = 63.66^{***}$, $\eta^2 = .17$
Gender: $F = 7.09^{**}$, $\eta^2 = .00$
C \times G: $F = 1.27$, $\eta^2 = .01$

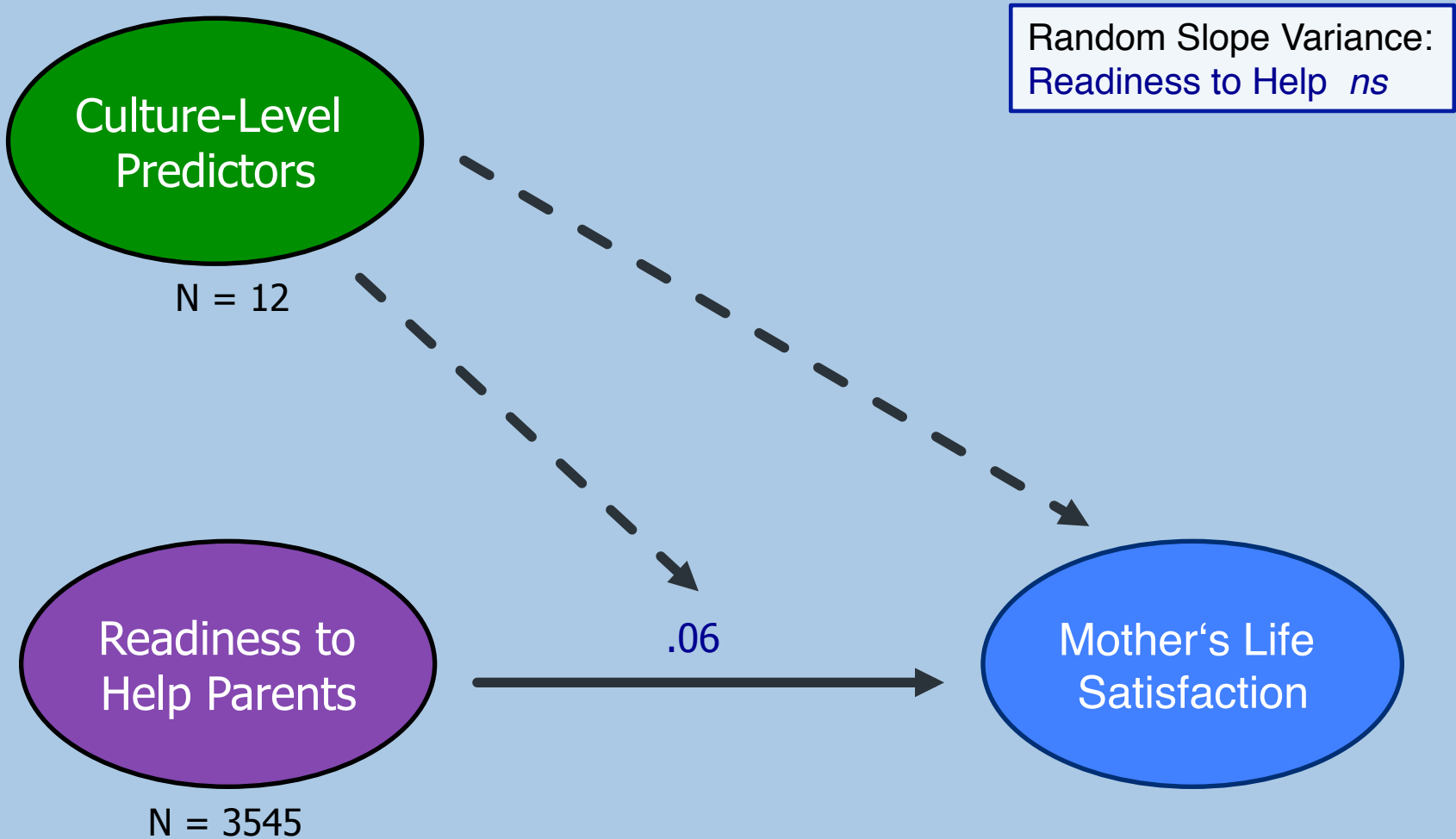
Mother's Parenting Behavior: Acceptance



Mother's Life Satisfaction

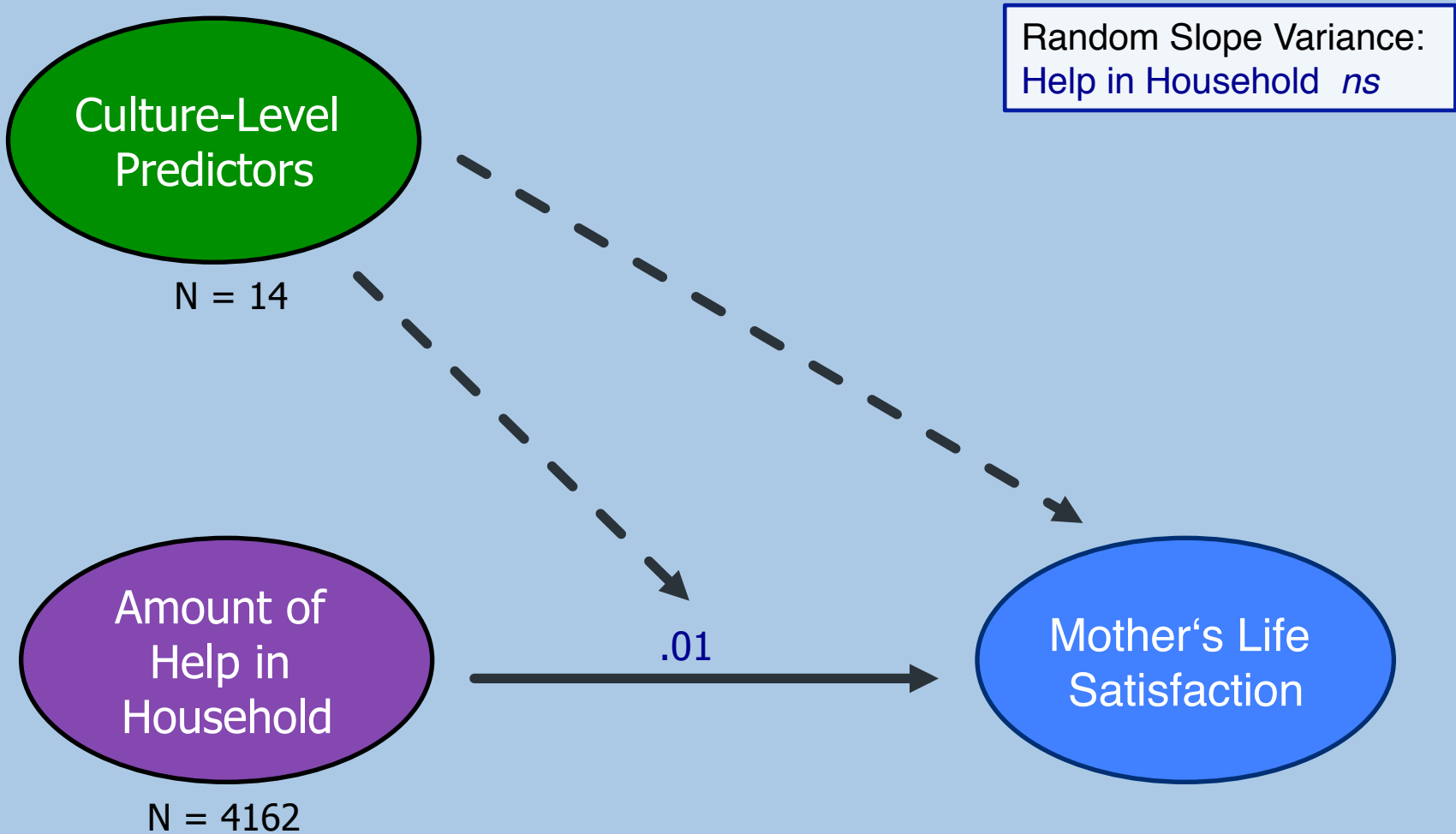


Readiness to Help Parents (vs. Meet Friends) → Mother's Life Satisfaction



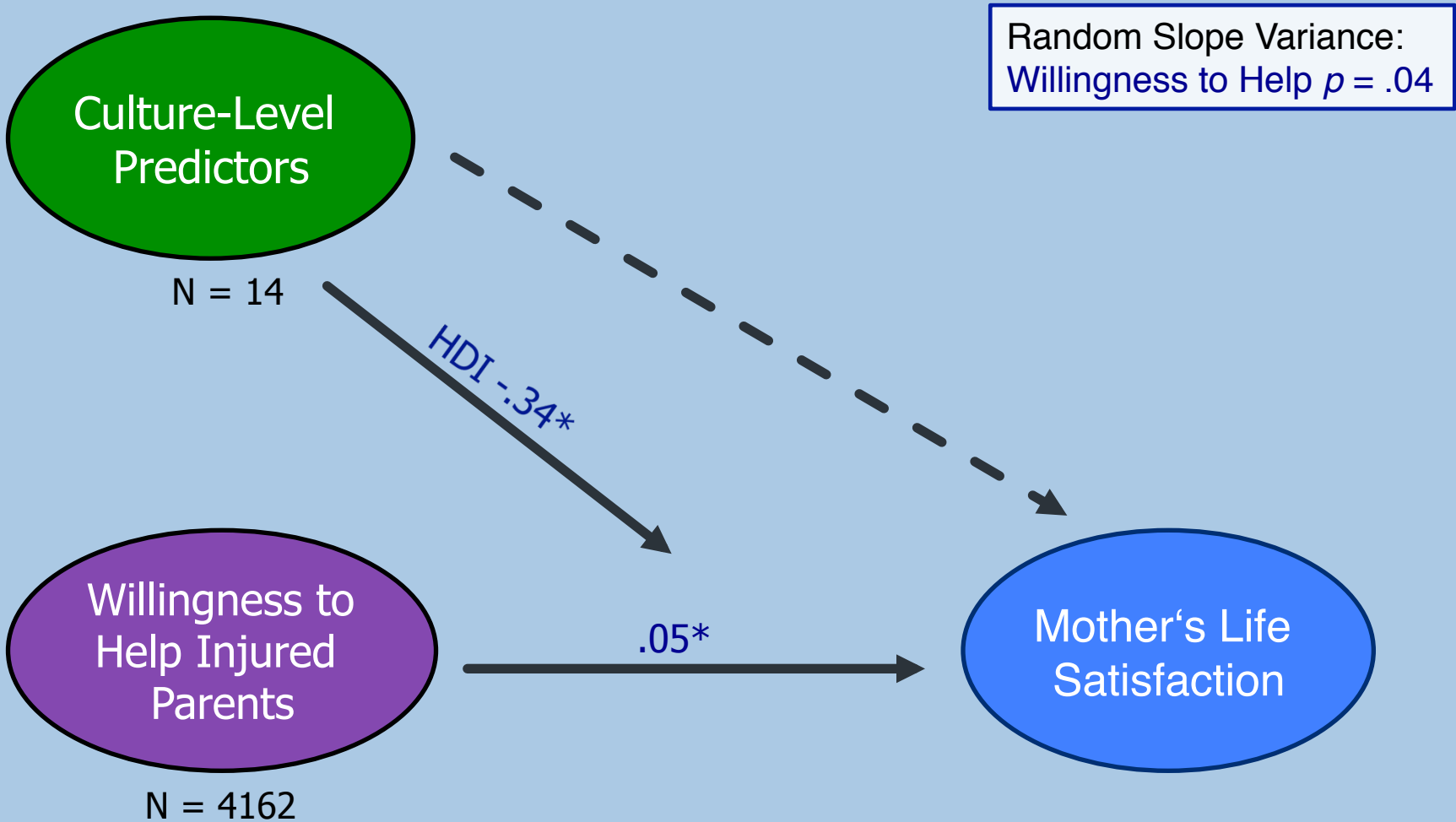
+ p < .1 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001. Unstandardized estimates.

Household Tasks → Mother's Well-Being



+ p < .1 * p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001. Unstandardized estimates.

Readiness to help Injured Parents → Mother's Well-Being



+ $p < .1$ * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$. Unstandardized estimates.